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first to open in my gardens, but this season *Cypripedium parviflorum* will beat it. This will be open by the middle of May. My *Platanthera* was originally from Massachusetts, and being from a more northern region, required, perhaps, less heat to advance it than the same species from locations nearer home.

Mr. Wheeler, of Berlin, Mass., finds it in bloom the last week in June at Winchester, N. H., at an altitude of 1,000 feet; so that the time given in the books (July and August), even in its average locations, is probably much too late.—T. MEEHAN, *Germantown, Phil.*

DOUBLE THALICTRUM ANEMONOIDES.—Double *Thalictrums* are occasionally found, as many instances are on record in the literature of the past one hundred years. Those which I have seen have been white, and, as the florists would say, rather semi-double than double. I have one now in flower sent me last year by Mr Dory, of Springfield, Ohio, that is as double as it is possible to be, and of a pretty, rosy tint of white. The petals are as regularly arranged as in a first-class double *Camellia*. The object of this note is to encourage observers still to look for double ones; as although double ones are now not novelties, there may be novel shades of color.—T. M.

COBÆA SCANDENS.—It may be worth noting that the flowers of *Cobæa scandens*, the familiar hot-house climber, are distinctly *protandrous*. At the time that the stamens are shedding their pollen, the trifid stigma is completely closed, nor does it open until the anthers have become functionless.—W. W. BAILEY.

NOTES ON CERTAIN SILKWEEDS.—Of the rare *Asclepias Meadii* Torr., which does not appear to have been previously detected but in Illinois and Iowa, the present writer found two nice specimens near Lancaster, Wisconsin, in flower on the 19th of June, 1879. The species differs notably from *A. obtusifolia*, Mich., with which it is grouped, in that the umbel is nodding by an abrupt bend in the upper part of the peduncle. This character is easily effaced in the process of removing the wilted specimen from damp to dry papers, and so the dry specimens may not have shown it.

The habitat of *A. Sullivantii*, Engelm., according to Dr. Gray, in the Synoptical Flor., is, "from Ohio to Kansas." But upon the wet prairies of central Minnesota it is by far more common than in any locality further north. The far western *A. speciosa*, Torr., has not been reported from farther east than Nevada, but it is frequent in the central part of Minnesota, where the eastern *A. Cornuti*, Decaisne, seems to reach its western limit. To these observations upon known species may be appended the following description of a new one:

ASCLEPIAS UNCIALIS. Stems several, only an inch or two long, decumbent; leaves from ovate to narrowly lanceolate, short-petioled or sessile, smooth and somewhat glaucous, the margins white tomentose; umbels three or four flowered, sessile; corolla dull purple; hoods broadly ovate, truncate, a little shorter than the anthers, their dimpled auricles produced into acuminate points which rest against the anthers

and nearly equal them; the broad, short, thick though somewhat flattened process representing the horn, very obtuse, or sometimes even retuse at the apex; follicles not seen.

Open hill-tops in south-western New Mexico, about Silver City, flowering in April.

In Dr. Gray's arrangement of the genus in the Syn. Fl. N. Am., this species would come next after *A. brachystephana*, Engelm.—EDWARD LEE GREENE.

NOTES FROM FLORIDA.—During a recent visit to Apalachicola, I had the pleasure of rambling for several miles in the vicinity of that ancient town in company with Dr. Chapman, and of being introduced by him to many plants peculiar to this region, first discovered and named by him. Of these, none interested me more than the three Myricaceae which I had not before seen; namely, the willow-like *Leitneria*, the *Myrica cerifera*, var. *intermedia*, which is much more distinct than I supposed, and the *Myrica inodora*. The latter I beheld with less pleasure than mortification, for with it I discovered a mistake in my recently issued Third Fascicle. What I distributed under that name is probably *Myrsine Floridana*. The characters presented by the shrub as found in fruit corresponded so well with those of *Myrica* that I too precipitately named it *Myrica inodora*. The latter, however is quite distinct. Dr. Chapman compared the inflorescence of *Myrsine* to a growth of *Cuscuta compacta*.

Most of Dr. Chapman's field work has been done in the neighborhood of the Apalachicola river, a region which embraces wonderfully varied and interesting vegetation. Fortunately the most interesting plants were in bloom at the time of my visit, and I succeeded in preparing fine sets of over thirty species for my fourth Fascicle, including three for my second set of Ferns.

No botanist who travels southward should fail to visit the Apalachicola river. Coming here about the first of April he will find the noble *Torreya* in bloom and beneath it the *Croomia*, which at first I confounded with the young plants of *Dioscorea* and *Smilax herbacea* growing with it. Of the shrubs he will hardly know which to admire most, the yellow variety of *Azalea nudiflora*, the red *Æsculus Pavia*, or the white *Chionanthus*. He will be charmed with the *Silene Drummondii*, and stand with awe before the giant cypresses, gums and cotton woods of the river bottoms. He will be tempted to recline on deep cushions of feathery *Selaginella*, and learn to shrink from that vegetable porcupine, the *Chamaerops Hystrix*. He will marvel at the parrot-beaked *Sarracenia*, and feel repaid for his journey if he sees nothing but the wonderful *Sarracenia Drummondii*.—A. H. CURTISS, Key West, Fla.

DOUBLE-STAINING OF VEGETABLE TISSUES.—Having used a number of dyes in double staining vegetable tissues, the conclusion I have arrived at is, that no rules can be given which will ensure success in every case. The process is quite familiar to every working micro-